

In the Claims

1. (Previously presented) A transgenic cotton plant comprising fiber cells stably transformed with an expression cassette comprising a gene which comprises a ~~synthetic~~ coding sequence encoding at least one pentapeptide which is repeated at least once, wherein said at least one pentapeptide is Gly-Val-Gly-Val-Pro (SEQ ID NO:2).

2. (Cancelled)

3. (currently amended) An expression cassette comprising one or more regulatory elements, a fiber specific promoter, one or more selectable marker genes and a terminator, wherein the promoter promotes the expression of a ~~synthetic~~ gene comprising a coding sequence encoding a pentapeptide which is repeated at least once, wherein said pentapeptide is Gly-Val-Gly-Val-Pro (SEQ ID NO:2).

4. (cancelled).

5. (Previously presented) The expression cassette of claim 3, wherein said fiber specific promoter is an E-6 promoter.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) The transgenic cotton plant of Claim 1, wherein said gene encodes ~~between 20 and 251~~ 121 repeats of the amino acid sequence Gly-Val-Gly-Val-Pro (SEQ ID NO:2).

9. (cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) A transgenic cotton plant comprising fiber cells stably transformed with an expression cassette comprising a gene which comprises a coding

sequence encoding at least one pentapeptide which is repeated at least once ~~The transgenic cotton plant of Claim 1,~~ wherein said pentapeptide is Val-Pro-Gly-Val-Gly (SEQ ID NO: 1).

11. (Previously presented) A transgenic cotton plant comprising fiber cells stably transformed with an expression cassette comprising a synthetic gene which comprises a coding sequence encoding either a Gly-Val-Gly-Val-Pro (SEQ ID NO. 2) or a Val-Pro-Gly-Val-Gly (SEQ ID NO. 1) pentapeptide that is repeated at least once.

12. (cancelled).